

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; AUGUST 7, 2006; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 7, 2006, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lisa Ball; Lee S. Bowers; Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Margaret S. Parker, Chairman and Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chairman. Staff present: Sabrena Posey Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Mr. Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Pastor Byrd, County Chaplain, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S):

Chairman Parker recognized Dr. William Small, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission and Ms. Lawton C. O’Cain, Chairman of the Planning Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE #2006-008, ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT 2006 REASSESSMENT PROGRAM:

Chairman Parker opened the public hearing to receive public comments on Ordinance #2006-008, the ordinance to implement the 2006 reassessment program. Administrator Graham stated that the statute has changed since the legislature implemented the tax caps. She stated that in the past counties had to adopt an ordinance to delay implementation of the reassessment program, but this year, counties have to adopt an ordinance if they plan to implement the reassessment program. Council Member Wilson stated that the people need to vote against the referendum regarding the 15% tax caps. Council Member Ball wanted to know what would happen if the Governor does not sign. Administrator Graham stated that this was prior. The Governor has signed. Council Member Johnson wanted to know if your taxes would stay the same if they cap the taxes. He wanted to know if the millage would not increase. Administrator Graham stated that the cap means that you can’t raise the value on property above the 15% cap. Council Member Wilson reiterated that the people needed to vote against the tax cap. With no further discussion, Chairman Parker closed the public hearing.

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**ORDINANCE #2006-009, ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE 12 ACRES OF PROPERTY IN THE
LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARK TO LeCREUSET OF AMERICA, INC.
AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MITIGATION OF THE WETLANDS:**

Chairman Parker opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding Ordinance #2006-009, the ordinance to provide 12 acres of property in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park to LeCreuset of America, Inc. and to provide for the mitigation of the wetlands. There were no comments. Chairman Parker closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 7, 2006 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested: (1) Deferral of Item #10.2.1 until the next meeting, because the figures were not ready, (2) Addition of Item #13.1.10, Capital Sales Tax Quarterly Report, (3) Addition of Item #13.1.11, EMS Technician's Position, (4) Addition of Item #13.1.12, Donation for Drug Awareness Campaign – Back to School, (5) Deletion of Item #12.1 and (6) Change the word “matter” under executive session (economic development) to “matters”. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to adopt the agenda with the requested revisions. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JULY 17, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the minutes. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

**PANDEMIC FLU PRESENTATION BY MR. NICK DAVIDSON OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC):**

Chairman Parker recognized Mr. Matt Petofes and Mr. Nick Davidson from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Mr. Davidson informed council as to what “pandemic” meant. He stated that the word “pandemic” only meant “world wide”.

Mr. Davidson gave the presentation regarding the Pandemic Flu (commonly referred to as the Bird Flu) and

the campaign by DHEC to educate the public on awareness and prevention measures. He stated that no cases

of this flu has been found in the United States. He stated that if it were to hit the states, then the biggest challenge of government would be absenteeism. Statistics show that there would be a 50% rate of

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absenteeism if there were a pandemic. Mr. Davidson stated that DHEC has been meeting with county officials in a statewide process for planning and educating the public on prevention if a pandemic was to occur. Council had a short discussion and thanked Mr. Davidson for his presentation. Mr. Davidson thanked council for their time.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCES

THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE # 2006-008, ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE REASSESSMENT PROGRAM:

Chairman Parker stated that Ordinance #2006-008, ordinance to implement the reassessment program, was being presented for third reading. Council Member Bowers stated that he did not want to do it, but it had to be done. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to give third (3rd) reading to Ordinance #2006-008, ordinance to implement the reassessment program. Motion carried unanimously.

THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-009, ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE 12 ACRES TO LeCREUSET:

Chairman Parker stated that Ordinance #2006-009, ordinance to provide 12 acres to LeCreuset and to provide for the mitigation of the wetlands, was presented for third reading. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give third (3rd) reading to Ordinance #2006-009, Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-010, MILLAGE ORDINANCE DEFERRED:

Administrator Graham asked that the millage ordinance needed to be deferred, because they did not have the numbers tonight. Council had a short discussion and deferred Ordinance #2006-010.

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-011, FALSE FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE:

Chairman Parker stated that Ordinance #2006-011, the False Fire Alarm Ordinance, had been examined and is being presented for second reading. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give second (2nd) reading to Ordinance #2006-011, False Fire Alarm Ordinance. Council Member Ball wanted to know if all the businesses are aware of this ordinance and how is the county contacting the businesses to inform them of this ordinance. Administrator Graham stated that the County will make businesses aware through the local media,

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etc. Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-012, GRANTING OF EASEMENT TO OAKWOOD PRODUCTS, INC. BY TITLE ONLY:

Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give second (2nd) reading to Ordinance #2006-012, Granting of Easement to Oakwood Products, Inc. with the addition of a reverter clause. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST (1st) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-013, BUSINESS LICENSE FEE ORDINANCE:

Administrator Graham stated that Ordinance #2006-013 was being presented to be able to implement a business license fee. She stated that the ordinance is a model of the ordinance that is in some towns. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give first (1st) reading to Ordinance #2006-013, Business License Fee Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST (1st) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-014, HAMPTON COUNTY RULES AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE BY TITLE ONLY:

Chairman Parker wanted to give first (1st) reading to the Rules and Procedures Ordinance. Council Members felt that they needed more time to review the document. Council stated that they would like to meet in workshops to discuss the ordinance. Council Member Bowers stated that Council had just gotten the ordinance in their packet with the changes, etc. He stated that the council members who were not on the committee needed time to review it. He stated that it may pass by the end of the year. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to give first (1st) reading to the Hampton County Rules and Procedures Ordinance by title only. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Parker asked that council members meet at 5:00 p. m. on August 21, 2006 for a workshop to discuss the ordinance.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING

There were no council briefing(s).

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Waive Building Permit Fees for Hampton Regional Medical Center (HRMC)

Administrator Graham stated that the hospital made the request to waive the building permit fees for Hampton Regional Medical Center's Building Project. Administrator Graham stated that Council

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deferred the matter, but she received no further requests for information; therefore, she had no additional information to present. Council Member Ball abstained from any discussion of the matter. Chairman Parker stated that she would like to refer the matter to the Administration and Finance Committee to meet with Mr. Dave Hamill, CEO, Hampton Regional Medical Center, to discuss the matter. Chairman Parker asked that the matter be placed back on the agenda for the next meeting.

Request from Mrs. Lessie Wilson Loadholt to honor former Sheriff Loadholt

Administrator Graham presented the request from Mrs. Lessie Wilson Loadholt to recognize former Sheriff Loadholt. Council Members all felt that they would like to do something but did not know actually what to do. Chairman Parker appointed an Ad Hoc Committee, Council Members Ball and Bowers, to bring back a recommendation regarding the matter.

Request to Waive Building Permit Fees for Salkehatchie Summer Service

Administrator Graham stated that she had a request from Salkehatchie Summer Service to waive the building permit fees totaling \$100. She stated that in the past they did not pay the building permit fees. Council Member Bowers stated that it has never come before council before. Administrator Graham stated that the supplies are donated and the repairs are done by volunteers. Council Member Bowers stated that if you do it for one, you will have to do it for all. Chairman Parker stated that she abstained from the matter, because she works with the project. Council wanted to know if tabling the matter would hold up the progress. Administrator Graham stated that the work had already been completed. She stated that this was a retroactive request. Chairman Parker stated that she wanted to clarify that this was not Salkehatchie the school; the group was just had Salkehatchie in the name. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to decline the request. Council stated that they would try to see if someone would donate privately to cover the fees. County Attorney Solomons stated that he would see if his church would donate the \$100 to cover the building permit fees. By Acclamation, Council declined the request.

Water Capacity Use Program

Administrator Graham stated that years ago, Hampton County opted not to be a member of the Water Capacity Use Area. She stated that the surrounding counties did so. Administrator Graham stated that she has asked Mr. David Baize from DHEC to come and give a presentation regarding the request. Administrator Graham will invite Mr. David Baize to come and speak at the next meeting.

Magistrates' Salaries

Administrator Graham stated that the magistrates were given the same increase as all other county employees, 3%. She stated that South Carolina Court Administration stated that magistrates are eligible for the same cost of living as the state employees which is 4%. She stated that she has spoken to the magistrates, and they would like to receive the 4% increase. Administrator Graham stated that she is requesting a transfer of \$1,321 to the magistrates' salaries to cover the difference between the 3% cost of living that they were given and the 4% in which they are requesting.

Moved

by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to comply with the state's court system and give the magistrates' the increase as required by the state now and in the future and to transfer the \$1,321 from contingency to cover the difference. Motion carried unanimously.

Quarterly Financial Reports

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Mr. Mike Meyers, Finance Director, presented the quarterly finance reports to Council as information. (See Attachment – Quarterly Report).

Quarterly EMS Delinquent Collections Report

Mr. Mike Meyers, Finance Director, presented to council the Quarterly EMS Delinquent Collections

Report as information. Chairman Parker asked that when Mr. Meyers meet with the representative from the collection agency that he finds out from them what are some of the road blocks to collection, etc. (See Attachment – Delinquent Collections Report).

Southern Carolina Alliance July 2006 Activity Report

Administrator Graham presented to council a copy of Southern Carolina Alliance’s Activity Report for July 2006. She stated that Mrs. Kay Maxwell was present and would answer any questions that council had. There were no questions. Council accepted the report as information.

Strategic Plan

Administrator Graham stated that Council had been mailed the booklet copy of the plan but had included in their packet, a copy of the plan that was mailed.

Capital Sales Quarterly Report

Administrator Graham presented the Capital Sales Quarterly Report as information. She told council that collections were up, so it was still good news. (See Attachment).

Emergency Medical Services’ (EMS’) Ambulance Technician Position

Administrator Graham stated that there was a request from EMS to reclassify the vacant Paramedic position(s) to Ambulance Technician Position(s). Administrator Graham stated that Chris Altman, Interim EMS Director, stated that this is a plan to try and grow their own. Council Member Johnson

wanted clarification that these were not new positions. Administrator Graham stated that they were not, just reclassification. She stated that the money was in their budget and there was no additional funds requested. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to reclassify the position(s) as Ambulance Technician position(s). Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Department’s Donation Request

Administrator Graham stated that council had a request from the Sheriff’s department for \$1,500 for their back to school drug awareness program. Council asked Deputy Solomons how was the money used. He stated that they used it to buy book bags, school supplies, etc. Council Member Bowers asked how many children did they serve last year. Deputy Solomons stated that they had about 300 children to participate. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson,

to approve the \$1,500 request from the sheriff’s department for the back to school drug awareness program. Council Members Johnson and Wilson voted “Yea” and Council Members Ball, Bowers and Parker voted “Nay”. The motion did not pass. **Moved** by Council Members Parker, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to give the sheriff’s department the same amount that was given last year for the school drug awareness program. Council Members Ball, Bowers and Parker voted “yea”. Council Members Johnson and Wilson abstained. The motion passed.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Parker stated that there was a need for an executive session to discuss a personnel matter and two economic development alliances. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to go into executive session. Before going into executive session, Council recognized Mrs. Lessie Loadholt, wife, Former Sheriff Rudy Loadholt. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 7:45 p. m. and ended 8:10 p. m. After coming out of executive session, the following was stated:

Personnel Matter

Economic Development Contractual Matter(s)

Chairman Parker stated that council received updates on three economic development contractual matters and gave the Administrator directives on two alliances that council is considering.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p. m.